

MIYASHITA ET AL. - 09/916,530

Client/Matter: 008312-0279038

REMARKS

Claim 11 is amended hereby, and claim 12 is canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 11 and 20-21 will remain pending.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Meerudatsudo (Japanese Patent No. JP 7074128A). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection and, therefore, respectfully traverses same.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 has been canceled, without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to claim 12 has been mooted.

With respect to claim 11, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 now recites a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device combining a number of features, including, for example, forming an oxide layer. Since Meerudatsudo fails to disclose such a combination including at least this feature, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is not anticipated by Meerudatsudo and is, therefore, patentable thereover.

On June 18, 2004, the undersigned discussed the amendment to claim 11 that is presented herein. Examiner Pompey relayed that claim 11 would be allowable if amended in the manner presented herein. The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the June telephonic interview.

Each of the rejections having been addressed, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 and 20-12 are now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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